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International News

February – 1

- **India** has ranked **42nd** on the **Economic Intelligence Unit's Global** democracy Index **2017**. This marks a drop by 10 spots as compared to **32nd** rank last year.
- **On 29th – 30th Jan 2018**, the **Syrian National Dialogue Congress** was held in **Sochi, Russia**.
- The **India International Institute** of democracy and **Election Management Organized** a special **visit for foreign** delegates from **Election Management bodies** and International Organization and its **upcoming** state of the art **campus in Dwarka, Delhi**

February – 3

- The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (**JAXA**) launched the world's smallest rocket with the ability to put a **micro – satellite into orbit**
- **India** has joined the **Ashgabat** agreement which envisages setting up of an international transport **and transit corridor linking Central Asia** with the **Persian Gulf**.

February – 4

- UK has permitted doctors to create three parent babies through **Mitochondrial donation** in a move to prevent passing of incurable genetic disease from mother to babies.
- **New Manchester India partnership** aimed at connecting Indian companies with Northern regions of England was launched in London, UK

February – 5

- **India** contributed an additional **\$ 100 million** to the **India – UN Development** partnership Fund earmarked for supporting sustainable development projects in Least Developed countries and small **Island Developing states**.

- **Sri Lanka** celebrated the **70th Independence Day** in a grand ceremony at Galle Face Green in Colombo. **Theme** of the ceremony : **One Nation**
- The **United Arab Emirates** has made a record by opening the **world's longest zip line** measuring **2.83 km** in length.
- **Rwanda** becomes the first low – income country to provide universal eye care for its 12 million populations.
- Cyprus president Nicos Anastasiades has won reelection for a second team.

February – 6

- **Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen** has declared a **15 day** state of Emergency the latest crisis was triggered when the **Maldivian Supreme Court** ordered the release of some opposition leaders, including former **president Mohammed Nasheed** after overturning their terrorism convictions.

February – 7

- Sweden and the United Nations World Food Programme signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement committing an unprecedented \$370 million dollars to WFP over the next four years. The contribution for the period 2018-2021 is the biggest ever made by a donor within a WFP Strategic Partnership Agreement.

February – 8

- The Times Higher Education (THE) released the list of the best colleges in Asia in the Asia University Rankings 2018 on 6 February. While the top 10 spots were secured by universities from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore and South Korea, India managed to improve its score on the index with a total of 42 finding a place among just over 350 Universities.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has inaugurated Saudi Arabia's annual '**Janadriyah Festival**' where India has been invited as guest of honour this year, officials said. Earlier, Minister of State for External Affairs VK Singh had said that India's Participation in the festival will be multifaceted and would take relations of the two nations "to new heights".

February – 9

- **Bermuda** has become the first country in the world to abolish same sex marriage.

February – 10

- **PM Modi** laid the foundation stone for the **first Hindu temple** in the **United Arab Emirates Capital**
- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** met **Saudi King salman bin Abdulaziz** who inaugurated the prestigious National Heritage and culture festival ‘**Janadriyah**’ in **Riyadh**.

February – 11

- **MOU** between **India** and **Palestine** for setting up of **India – Palestine super – specialty hospital** at **Beit sahour in Bethelhem**.
- **PM Modi** has laid the foundation stone for a new temple for the Hindu Community living in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It will be the **first Hindu temple** at **Abu Dhabi, UAE**.
- **India’s financial capital Mumbai** has been named among the top **15 wealthiest cities globally**.

February – 12

- According to a report by New World Health , **Mumbai has ranked 12th out of 15 Wealthiest city globally**
- China’s People’s Liberation Army Air Force (**PLAAF**) has commissioned its new generation **J-20 fourth-generation stealth fighter** into combat service. With this, **China became second country in world** to commissioned domestically developed stealth aircraft after **United States**

February – 13

- **Gevora**, Worlds new tallest hotel opened on **February 11 2018** in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Height of **75 storeys Gevora Hotel** is **356 metres**. It has been built by **Majid Al Attar**.
- **4th Nepal Buildcon** and wood **International Expo 2018** was held in Kathmandu from 8th to 11th February 2018.

February – 14

- **Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)** launched the first tests of the **world's first autonomous pods at the World Government Summit**. The autonomous pods are launched in cooperation with **Next Future Transportation (US-Based)** and are designed to travel short and medium distances in dedicated lanes.

February – 15

- **Tamil Nadu** among **nine global market leaders in renewable**. TN have achieved an **outsized share of wind and solar generation**.

February – 16

- South Africa's embattled **President Jacob Zuma** has resigned. He announced the decision in a televised address to the nation after the ruling **African National Congress (ANC)** party threatened to eject him from office via a parliamentary vote of no confidence today.
- **China** will host 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (**SCO**) Summit at Qingdao, eastern Shandong Province in **June 2018**. **China** had taken over rotating chair of SCO after 17th SCO summit concluded in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan in June 2017.
SCO is a Eurasian economic, political and security organization headquartered in Beijing, China. It was founded in 2001.

February – 17

- Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and National History Museum (NHM) signed a **MOU** for cooperation in the field of **genetic studies and research**

February – 18

- **India's** defence **budget** broke into the **world's top** fine, **beating** the **UK** for the first time, a new **report** by a London – based **global think – tank**
- President of **Iran, Hassan Rouhani** arrived in India on a **three – day** state visit. He has signed these **MOUs** with **India**.
- East **China's Qingdao city** will host the **shanghai cooperation organization** in June this year

February – 20

- **Singapore** will impose a '**carbon tax**' from **2019** to cut its **greenhouse gas emissions and make companies more competitive as global agreements on climate change take effect**. Finance minister Heng Swee Keat stated that the tax would be levied on all facilities producing 25,000 tonnes or more of greenhouse gas emissions a year. The tax, to be applied to all sectors, will be Sg\$5.0 (\$3.8) per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions from 2019 to 2023.
- Spiritual leader Aga Khan is on the 11-day visit to India. Sunder Nursery, a 90-acre park near Humayun's Tomb in New Delhi, will be inaugurated by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu in the presence of the Aga Khan.

February – 21

- The Pakistani Senate approved a motion to declare Mandarin as one of the official languages of Pakistan. The motion said the step was necessary in view of ties between Pakistan and China. Other official languages of Pakistan is Urdu and English.

- UK-India research projects on ‘Water Quality Research’ and ‘Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment’ were launched by Dr V K Saraswat, Member, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, Professor Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST) India and Daniel Shah, Director, Research Councils UK (RCUK) India. The ‘Water Quality Research’ programme has eight projects and ‘Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment’ programme has four projects, with a total joint investment of up to £15 million.

February – 22

- The Indian and Indonesian armies began the sixth edition of their annual military exercise named ‘Garuda Shakti’ in Bandung, Indonesia. The exercises will include experience sharing in counter-terrorism operations, close quarter combat, and other areas of special operations.
- Google announced the launch of a unified payment service app for its Google Pay platform. Google Pay will combine the features of the already existing Google Wallet and Android Pay. The app provides a simple interface where the user is allowed to store credit and debit card details, loyalty programs and other such linked payment services.

February – 23

- According to United Nations (UN), India is contributing \$1 million for relief efforts in the Pacific Ocean Kingdom of Tonga that was devastated by Cyclone Gita last week. Of that \$500,000 would be given as immediate relief to Tonga and another \$500,000 would be allocated to it from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund (I-UNDPF).

February – 24

- The Government of **India** has issued an order to constitute “**NITI Forum for North East**” to identify constraints and recommend suitable interventions for speedy and sustainable growth in **NER**.

February – 25

- Saudi Arabia conducted the first ever jazz festival in Riyadh. It is conducted for 3 days.
- 7th meeting of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India relations began in Kathmandu, Nepal.

February – 26

- The eighth joint military exercise between the Indian Army and Seychelles **People's Defence Forces** started on February 24 and will continue till March 4 at Mahe Island, **Seychelles**.
 - The exercise is named "**Lamitye**" which in the local dialect '**Creole**' means friendship.
 - This exercise is the eighth in the series of bilateral exercises being conducted in the beautiful island nation.
- A **three-day** India International Textiles Expo (**IITExpo**) of India began in **Sri Lankan capital of Colombo. (IITExpo)**
 - It is being organized by **Powerloom** Development & Export Promotion Council (**PDEXCIL**) with the support of Union Ministry of Textiles & Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

February – 27

- **Dr. Satya Pal Singh**, Minister of State, **Ministry of Human Resource Development**; and Ministry of **Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation**, Government of India led the Indian delegation to the **20th Conference** of the Commonwealth Education Ministers (**20CCEM**) held in **Nadi, Fiji** during **19-23 February 2018**.
- **China has become the vice chair of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, a global body mandated to combat terror financing.

February – 28

- The **seventh meeting** of Eminent persons. Group (EPG) on **Nepal – India** relations was held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- **India** has ranked **47th out of 86 countries** on **Inclusive Internet Index 2018**. This year's ranking marks a drop of **11 spots as compared 36th rank in 2017**.
- **Saudi Arabia** for the very **first time** opened applications for women to **enlist in the military as the Kingdom continues to enact** granting females more access to a **wide range of previously forbidden careers**.

National News

February – 1

- **Bihar Cabinet** allocated funds worth **Rs.105 crore** for Bihar **MahadalitVikas mission**, which **Formulates and implements schemes** for the most **backward sections** among **scheduled castes**
- **Uttar Pradesh** launched '**Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojana Grameenn**' a new scheme to **construct houses in rural areas**. **Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana Gramin** is for those who have not been covered under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**.
- **Maharashtra Government** approved the introduction of **Asmita** a scheme to provide **sanitary pads to 7 lakh girls in Government schools** for **Rs.5 a pack**
Asmita : The Scheme **Asmita aims to provide Sanitary pads** at subsidized price to girls in the age of **11 to 19 year**.

February – 2

1. Finance Minister ArunJaitley delivered the current government's fifth and last full financial budget (Budget 2018 for the fiscal year 2018-19) amid subdued economic growth, challenging fiscal situation and farm distress.

- **Here are the key highlights from the Union Budget 2018:**

- **Economic Health**

- Economy firmly on course to achieve high growth of 8%
- GDP growth at 6.3% in the second quarter of 2017-18 signals turnaround of the economy
- Growth in the second half likely to remain between 7.2% to 7.5%

- **Agriculture and Rural Economy**

- MSP for all unannounced Kharif crops increased to 150%
- Institutional credit for agri-sector increased to Rs.10 lakh crore in 2017-18
- Fisheries, aquaculture and animal husbandry corpus at Rs.10,000 crore
- New scheme Operation Greens with an outlay of Rs 500 Crore
- Govt to develop and upgrade existing 22,000 rural haats
- Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund with a corpus of Rs.2000 crore
- Allocation for Ministry of Food Processing doubled to Rs.1400 crore
- Loans to Self Help Groups (SHG) of women to increase to Rs.75,000 crore by March 2019.
- Increased allocation of National Rural Livelihood Mission to Rs 5750 crore
- Under Ujjwala Scheme distribution of free LPG connections will be given to 8 crore poor women
- Housing for All by 2022 - more than one crore houses to be built by 2019 in rural areas

• **Education, Health, and Social Protection**

- Estimated budgetary expenditure on health, education and social protection at Rs.1.38 lakh crore
- Ekalavya Model Residential School to be set up for tribal children
- Investments for research & infra in premier educational institutions at Rs.1 lakh crore in next 4 years
- Allocation on National Social Assistance Programme at Rs. 9975 crore
- NHPS to cover over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries)
- NHPS to provide coverage up to 5 lakh rupees per family per year for hospitalisation
- Rs 1200 crore for the National Health Policy, 2017 - additional Rs.600 crore for TB patients
- 24 new Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals

• **Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) and Employment**

- Major thrust for Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) – allocation at Rs. 3794 crore
- Target of Rs.3 lakh crore for lending under MUDRA Yojana
- 70 lakh formal jobs to be created this year
- Govt to make 12% contribution of new employees in the EPF for all the sectors for 3 years
- Outlay of Rs.7148 crore for the textile sector
- Increase budgetary allocation on infrastructure for at Rs.5.97 lakh crore

- To develop 10 prominent tourist sites into Iconic Tourism destinations
- 35000 kms road construction in Phase-I at an estimated cost of Rs.5,35,000 crore

● Railways

- Railways Capital Expenditure pegged at Rs.1,48,528 crore
- 4000 kilometers of electrified railway network slated for commissioning
- Work on Eastern and Western, dedicated freight corridors
- Over 3600 km of track renewal targeted in current fiscal
- Redevelopment of 600 major railway stations
- Mumbai's local train network to have 90 kilometers of double line tracks at Rs.11,000 crore cost
- 150 km of additional suburban network planned for Mumbai
- Suburban network of 160 km at for Bengaluru metropolis

● Air Transport

- To expand airport capacity more than five times to handle a billion trips a year
- Regional connectivity - 56 un served airports and 31 un served helipads to be connected
- To establish unified authority for regulating all financial services

● Digital Economy

- NITI Aayog to initiate a national program to direct efforts in artificial intelligence

- Department of Science & Technology to launch Mission on Cyber-Physical Systems
- Allocation doubled on Digital India programme to Rs 3073 crore
- To set up 5 lakh wifi hotspots to provide net-connectivity to five crore rural citizens
- Rs. 10000 crore for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure

● Defence

- Development of two defence industrial production corridors.
- Allocation of Rs 2.95 lakh crore to defence sector.

● Emoluments

- To revise emoluments to Rs.5 lakh for the President
- Rs 4 lakhs for the Vice President
- Rs.3.5 lakh per month to Governor
- Pay for Members of Parliament - law for automatic revision of emoluments every 5 years
- 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi- Rs.150 crore for commemoration programme

● Fiscal Management

- Budget Revised Estimates for Expenditure at Rs.21.57 lakh crore
- Revised Fiscal Deficit estimates at 3.5% of GDP
- To bring down Central Government's Debt to GDP ratio to 40%

2. Finance Minister ArunJaitley announced two new initiatives under the Ayushman Bharat Programme in the Union Budget 2018.

- Under the programme, Mr. Jaitley announced a new flagship National Health Protection Scheme, providing a health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh a family per annum.
- The scheme will cover 10 crore vulnerable families, with approximately 50 crore beneficiaries.
- Mr. Jaitley also announced the creation of health and wellness centres, which will “bring healthcare closer to home”.
- These centres, 1.5 lakh in number, will provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services. A sum of Rs. 1200 crore had been allocated for this
- The government has proposed to set up **five lakh Wi-Fi hotspots** which will provide broadband access to five crore rural citizens.
 - Allocation of Rs 10,000 crore has been provided in 2018-19 for creation and augmentation of telecom infrastructure.
- The Finance Minister, ArunJaitley, while presenting the **Union Budget 2018-19**, said that as many as 99 cities were selected under the **ambitious Smart City Mission** at an outlay of Rs 2.04 lakh crore.
 - In the **Smart City Mission that aims at 100 cities**, 99 smart cities have been selected and will be allocated Rs 2.04 lakh crore, Jaitley informed Parliament.
 - The Ministry has so far launched 99 smart cities in two years.
- India has joined **Ashgabat Agreement** which envisages facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf to significantly boost up trade and investment. It was informed by Turkmenistan, as depository state of the Agreement that all its four founding members have consented to accession of India. February 2: World Wetland Day is observed to create awareness about the value of wetlands for humanity and the planet. This day marks the date of the adoption of the convention on Wetlands (also called as Ramsar Convention)

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**) and American pharmaceutical giant Pfizer have linked **MoU** to establish a ‘Centre to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance in **New Delhi**. The Centre will help in combating the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance in india.

February – 3

- **PM** to address the inaugural session of advantages **Assam – Global Investors summit 2018 in Guwahati**.
- **Yogi Adityanath** inaugurates **Surajkund Mela in Haryana**. Which is **32nd** edition and 17 daylong event showcases **India’s rich cultural diversity** crafts and **handiworks**
- The centre has sanctioned **Rs.1500 crore** for three years to promote organic farming in **Uttarakhand**.
- The **2nd** edition of ‘**Nobel prize series India 2018**’ in **Goa** with a theme Science Impact lives and the ‘**Nobel Science Exhibition and the India Science Exhibition Ideas changes the World**’.

February – 4

- Maharashtra State Government launched **four schemes** aimed at promoting entrepreneurship in agriculture and allied sectors among the **economically backward sectors** of the state.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated **Global Investors Summit 2018 – Advantage Assam** in Guwahati. This summit is expected to position Assam as India’s Express way to Association of South East Asian Nations (**ASEAN**) countries.
- Government to launch **Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan** scheme which aimed at promoting use of **solar energy** for pumps and encourage use of barren land for setting up decentralized solar power plants.
- India’s largest floating Treatment **Wetland** launched in Hyderabad’s **Neknampur Lake**.
- Assam State Government has signed a MOU with **National Building construction corporation**. For setting up a twin tower trade centre in Guwahati.

- Uttar Pradesh State Government inaugurated State's first even **butterfly Park** in Kanpur.
- **Cochin Shipyard limited and Joint Stock** company united shipbuilding corporation Russia have signed a MOU to collaborate and engage in Design, Development and Execution of contemporary State of **Art vessel for Inland and coastal waterways.**

February – 5

- Union Ministry of environment and climate change has sanctioned a new project to control pollution in **River Sal at Navelimtown in Goa.** This project has been sanctioned under **National River Conservation Plan.**
- **Maharashtra** State Government has approved **Ghodazari in Chandrapur** district as a **new wildlife sanctuary** in the State
- International conference on **Demetrios Galanes** and His Legacy was inaugurated at **Indira Gandhi National** centre for the arts in **New Delhi.**
- ‘**Green Good Deeds**’ campaign has been launched by Environment, Forest and climate change Ministry to sensities students about climate change and global warming.
- **Kala Ghoda** Arts Festival has been organised in **Mumbai.**
- Vice President of India, **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the **first International Kala Mela at Indira Gandhi National**centre for the arts, **New Delhi.**
- **Fifth International Biennial** conference of **Indian Heritage Network** was opened up in **Odisha** signifying **socio – cultural** heritage surrounding art and craft of **India.**
- Arunachal Pradesh gave a nod to much awaited “**Arunachal Pradesh Advertisement policy 2018**’ which will enable the government to make payment of government advertisement bills to media houses on a timely basis.

- **Royal Bhutanese** consulate was inaugurated in **Guwahati** seeking to strengthen **North East and Bhutanese bond.**

February – 6

- In Uttar Pradesh, State Government in association with the help of launched massive door to door campaign **DASTAK** to **eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis disease in the state**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have a packed schedule during his four days visit to **Palestine, UAE and Oman** from Ninth of this Month.
- The long pending **Transgender Welfare Board** will Finally see **light of the day** with the Maharashtra Government making a provision of **Rs.5 crore** for welfare of the community
- The first of the two **defense industrial corridor** between **Chennai, and Bengaluru.**
- The **Union Budget** saw much emphasis on **doubling of farmers income** and accurate weather forecast will play a major part in it. India's most powerful Gay Super computer **MIHIR** – that will give more accurate weather forecast.
- The center has released more than **Rs.51,600** crore to states under rural employment guarantee scheme **MGNREGA** till January 31 in financial year 2017 – 18 Rajya Sabha was informed

February – 7

- Pelican Bird Festival-2018 was jointly organised by the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority (APTA) and Krishna district administration. Andhra Pradesh Tourism minister BhumaAkhilaPriya and Krishna District collector B Lakshmikantham inaugurated the Pelican Bird Festival-2018.
- Ministry of Railways signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Ayush in New Delhi to scale up Ayush services in Railway's Zonal hospitals. As per the MoU, Ayush Services will be augmented at B. R. Singh

Hospital (Kolkata) in Eastern Railway, Perambur Railway Hospital (Chennai) in Southern Railway, Central Hospital (New Delhi) of Northern Railway, JR Hospital (Mumbai) in Western Railway and the Central Hospital of Northeast Frontier Railway (Guwahati).

- For the first time, Indian Railways has introduced new General Conditions of Contracts (GCC) for Services. GCC for services defines terms & conditions for contractors engaged in service contracts for non-operational areas such as Facilities Management, Housekeeping, Consultancy etc.
- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, will be in Karnataka to inaugurate the Mahamastakabhisheka Mahotsav 2018 of Gommateshwara Bhagwan Shri Bahubali Swami at Shravanabelagola February 7, 2018.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy under its scheme “Development of Solar Cities” has approved/sanctioned 60 Cities including 13 Pilot and 5 Model Cities up to 12th Five-year Plan period. Solar PV projects with aggregate capacity of 8069.16 kWp and Solar Water Heating System with aggregate capacity of 7894 meter square collector area have been sanctioned under the programme.
- On January 20, Mumbai airport created a new world record for single-runway operations by handling 980 arrivals and take-offs in 24 hours. With this, the Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport bettered its own feat of 974 flights in 24 hours, recorded on December 6, 2017.
- The Haryana government has launched the ‘Gobardhan Yojana’ to provide for the sale of organic manure and cow urine with an aim to benefit farmers. A provision of Rs 11 crore has been made to provide benefits of various projects under this scheme.
- Commerce and Industries Minister Mr Suresh Prabhu set off a series of nation-wide consultations with the industry on the proposed new Industrial Policy. The first consultation was held at Guwahati in February 2018. The event, organized by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in partnership with Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), was attended by more than 120 industrialists from the North East in addition to government officials from the North Eastern States.

February – 8

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Suresh Prabhu launched three tools** – States and Union Territory Startup Ranking Framework, Compendium of Good Practices for Promoting Startups in India and the Startup India Kit – for ranking States and Union Territories (UTs) on startup ecosystem. **Main objective of this tool is to encourage States and UTs to take proactive steps for strengthening the Startup ecosystems at the local level.**
- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, has formulated a mechanism in CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) **to facilitate regular interface with small-scale industry for transfer of technologies from CSIR laboratories. An announcement regarding this was made during a meeting with members of LaghuUdyogBharati, an all-India organisation of small scale industries.**
- At 25th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council held in New Delhi on January 18, 2018, it was recommended that GST rate on services by way of admission to Amusement Parks may be reduced from 28% to 18%. **On January 25, 2018, a notification was issued giving effect to these recommendations of GST Council.**
- **Arunachal Pradesh** Chief Minister Pema Khandu laid foundation stone for **Rhodendron Park in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The Rhodendron Park will be built in an area of 1.15 hectares. It will be partly funded under Border Area Development Programme (BADP).**
- **Under Union Budget 2018, Central Government has allocated Rs 5252 crore for different railway projects in Odisha.** This year's allocation is the highest ever budgetary allocation for railway infra development in Odisha till date. In Union Budget 2017, budgetary allocation for railway infra development in Odisha was Rs. 5102 crore, while for 2016 , it was Rs. 4682 crore.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar stated that the State Government will establish '**Haryana KisanKalyanPradhikaran**', a farmers' welfare department which will be entrusted with the responsibility to make agriculture remunerative by enhancing productivity and thereby mitigate the distress of farm households and landless workers.

- **5th South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference** is being held in **New Delhi** from 5th – 7th February, 2018. The Conference was inaugurated by Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley. It is being hosted by government of India through the Public Procurement Division (PPD) of the Ministry of Finance and All India Management Association (AIMA)
- The Centre is in the process of linking driving licences with Aadhaar number to weed out fake licences and a software for this covering all states on a real time basis. A bench comprising Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta was informed about it by a court-appointed committee on road safety headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice K S Radhakrishnan.

February – 9

- **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** has constituted a **13-member advisory committee to monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects** for the modernisation of the armed forces. **The committee will be headed by Vinay Sheel Oberoi**, former secretary in the government.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will address rallies at **Sonamura** in **Sipahijala** district and **Kailasahar** in **Unakoti** district. Assam Chief Minister and BJP leader **SarbanandSonowal** addressed public meetings in **Teliamura** and **Majlishpur**
- Union Cabinet approved implementation of **Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) scheme** at a total cost of 1,650 crore rupees for a period of seven years beginning 2018-19. The scheme was announced in the Union Budget for 2018-19. Under this scheme, the best students who have completed or are in the final year of B. Tech or Integrated M.Tech or M.Sc. in Science and Technology streams from IISc or IITs or NITs or IISERs or IIITs will be offered direct admission in the Ph.D. programme in the IITs or IISc.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** approved to enhance target base of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) from 5 crore to 8 crores. The revised target of PMUY will be achieved by 2020 with an additional allocation of **Rs. 4,800 crore**. The decision comes in the wake of the huge response to PMUY from the women particularly in rural areas and to cover such households not having LPG connection.

- The Memorandum of understanding between **India and Tunisia** for co operation on youth matters. Activities under this **MoU** would include organization of youth exchange programmes invitation to international conference, seminars, youth festivals, and workshops.
- The Memorandum of Co-operation will be signed between **Federal Law Enforcement Training Centres, USA and Bureau of police Research and Development**. It envisages co operation between two countries in security related matters under the aegis of the **India-US Homeland Security Dialogue**.
- The **Memorandum of Understanding** will be signed between the Department of **Economic Affairs and the Treasury**, Government of Australia.
- **MoU with United Kingdom and Northern Ireland** on Co operation in **Skill Development training institutes** will be created.

February – 10

- **International conference on Unani medicine** inaugurated on **10th February**. The theme of the conference is Integration of **Unani system** of Medicine in main stream **Health care**.
- “**Swachh Bharat Sanitation Park**” inaugurated in **Delhi**. The park demonstrates about **toilet and liquid** waste management **technologies**.
- **Shri RK singh** launches **ASH TRACK**. It is a web based monitoring system that will enable better management of the ash produced by **thermal power plants**.
- The **Ministry of women and child development** is considering to establish National Women Entrepreneurship Council (**NWEC**)
- **NITI Aayog** releases “**Healthy States, Progressive India**” at a function in Delhi by the CEO, NITI Aayog.
- National Informatics Centre (**NIC**) has Organized a three – day **National Meet** on **Grassroot Informatics – VIVID 2018** at Delhi

February – 11

- The **Union Home Minister (Rajnath Singh)** has said the government has decided to establish a **cyber crime Reporting portal** to report **cyber crimes against women**.
- The **Delhi government** and **MOEF** jointly launched the **clean Air Campaign**, which will continue for **2 weeks till February 23**
- **Paisabazaar.com**, the country's **largest digital lending platform** has entered into partnership with **Microsoft** to develop '**Industry first**' innovations.

February – 12

- A record was set on the second day of **RajimKumbhMela** in **Chhattisgarh** after over 2,100 saints and locals blew 'shankh' (conch shells) together. Golden Book of World Records certified the record. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh had inaugurated RajimKumbhMela and Ganga Aarti performance at banks of river **Mahanadi** in Gariyaband's Rajim.
- The central government has approved the construction of over **1.86 lakh** more houses under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)** scheme, taking the total number of affordable houses sanctioned to over **39.25 lakhs**.
- **Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological** system was inaugurated at **INS Garuda**, a **naval air station** located in **Kochi, Kerala**. **INS Garuda** has become the fourth naval air station to be the part of this integrated system
- Union Minister of health and family welfare, **JP Nadda** launched **National Deworming Day-10**
- National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**) has floated a Request for Proposal (RFP) to implement '**Pay as You Use**' **tolling** on the Delhi-Mumbai Highway, for which bids are expected to be submitted by February 26. The pilot project involves

implementing a satellite based electronic toll collection system running on **GPS/GSM** technology for around 500 commercial vehicles on the Delhi-Mumbai National Highway.

- Prime Minister **Modi** will deliver the keynote address at the inaugural day of the **World Government Summit in Dubai** today. India has been given the status of **Guest of Honour** at summit. More than **140 countries** are participating in the summit.
- Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** has launched the centre for learning **Sanskrit language** in **Gujarat University, Ahmedabad**
- **India and Palestine** has signed six memorandums of understandings worth **USD 40 million**. This was welcomed by Palestine President **Mahmoud Abbas**
- **India health fund** will financially support innovations and technologies aimed at combating **Tuberculosis and Malaria**
- **Central Government** has released a sum of Rs.1269 crore to Andhra Pradesh for various projects Out of Rs.1269 crore, **Rs.417.44 crore** has been given as grant for the **Polavaram multipurpose project** across the **Godavari River**.
- Ministry of Power has launched Web based monitoring System and Fly Ash mobile application named **ASH TRACK**. It was launched by Minister of State (IC) for **Power and New & Renewable Energy** R.K Singh in New Delhi. These platforms will enable better management of fly ash produced by thermal power plant and potential ash users such as –cement plants, road contractors etc....
- **ASH TRACK App**: The app shows coal based power plants situated within radius of 100 km and 300 km from a given location. It will allow user to select power station from where he wants to take fly ash. It will also show ash availability distance from user location

February – 13

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**-led consortium of **Indian state oil firms** have **acquired 10% stake** in Abu Dhabi's offshore **Lower Zakum Concession**.The acquisition is part of deal inked between company executives and **UAE officials** in presence of visiting Prime Minister **Narendra Modi and Abu Dhabi**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone-laying ceremony for construction of first traditional Hindu temple in **Al Wathba, Abu Dhabi**.The **UAE government had allocated land for the temple during PM Modi's first visit** to the gulf country in **2015**.It will come up on **55,000 square meters** of land. It will include idols of **Lord Krishna, Lord Maheshwara, Lord Ayyappa**and more.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** graced and addressed the **1st convocation of the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM)** at **Sonepat, Haryana**.
- India and **Oman** have signed eight **MoUs** in different areas during PM **Narendra Modi's** maiden visit to the **Gulf nation**.The fields in which the agreements were inked include defense, **health, and tourism**.
A MoU on legal and judicial co-operation in civil and commercial matters was also signed. The agreements were inked after Mr Modi held delegation-level talks with the **Sultan of Oman; Qaboos bin Said al Said in Muscat**.
- **The National Productivity Council** observed the **National Productivity Day (NPD) on 12 February 2018**. The council is also observing the National Productivity Week till February 18. The theme for NPD 2018 is '**Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India**'.
- **International conference on corporate social responsibility** was held on **9th and 10th feb 2018** in Bengaluru.

- **India** to host **first solar alliance summit on 11th march 2018** in Delhi. French President **Emanuel Macron** will participate in the **First International Solar Alliance Summit**. It is a treaty based inters governmental alliance. It comprises of **121 solar energy abundant nations** located between the **Tropic of cancer** and **Tropic of Capricorn**.
- The **International Conference on Unani Medicine** was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Minister of State (IC) for Ministry of Development of Northern Pics. It was organized by Central Council for Research in **Unani Medicine (CCRUM)**, under Ministry of **AYUSH** is organizing as part of the celebration of **Unani Day**. The Various national level eminent personalities and stakeholders from academia, industry, regulators, and researchers in the field of Unani Medicine participant.

February – 14

- **India-Russia agriculture business summit** was held in New Delhi. It was organized by the **Ministry of Agriculture and farmer welfare**. Discussions were held in 4 theme session on area of collaboration and trade in:
 - **agricultural and Machinery**
 - **Sanitary and phytoSanitary measures**
 - **Agriculture education and Bio technology**
 - **Fisheries and sea products**
 - **Baker's, dry fruits and coconut products**
- **Bihar** government issued a notification announcing ban on the sale of loose cigarettes in Bihar. **Bihar is the seventh state in India** to ban the sale of loose **cigarettes**
- Uttar Pradesh Government launched massive door to door **“DASTAK campaign** against Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (**AES**) and Japanese Encephalitis (**JE**). It was launched in association with **UNICEF** (United Nations Children's

Fund). **DASTAK** campaign is part of the comprehensive Social and Behaviour Change. **DASTAK** campaign is part of the comprehensive Social and Behaviour Change Communication (**SBCC**) strategy embraced by state government to beat encephalitis.

- **World Radio Day** is observed annually on 13 February. The theme for **WRD 2018** is "**Radio and Sports**". The Day is organized globally by the UNESCO. The objectives of the Day are mainly to raise greater awareness among the public and the media of the importance of radio and to encourage decision makers to establish and provide access to information through radio.
- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh inaugurated the '**Indian Power Stations 2018**' in New Delhi. It is the three-day International Conference on Operations and Maintenance. The Minister exhorted the NTPC to become India's power sector multinational by setting up power plants in other Nations and become world's largest power producer.
- **India** secured access to key strategic **Port of Duqm in Oman in the Arabian Sea** for military use and logistical support. This was one of the key takeaway Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** visits to Oman. During this visit, Annexure to Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) on Military Cooperation.
- The defense ministry of India approved capital acquisition proposals worth **Rs.15,935 crore** which included the purchase of 7.40 lakh assault rifles, 5,719 sniper rifles, and light machine guns to bolster the strength of the armed forces. The long-pending proposals were cleared at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), the defense ministry's highest decision-making body on procurement. The meeting was chaired by Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**. For the Indian Navy, the DAC also approved the procurement of **Advanced Torpedo Decoy Systems (ATDS)** at a cost of Rs. 850 crore.
- Union Minister of state for Rural Development **Ram Kripal Yadav** has stated that the government is working towards connecting villages through a road network by next year as a part of **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana by 2019**

- The Minister of Road Transport & Highways **Mr Nitin Gadkari** released **India's first ever Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) in New Delhi**. The manual is also known as **Indo-HCM** and it has been developed by **CSIR – CRRRI** on the basis of an extensive, country-wide study of the traffic characteristics on different categories of roads like a single lane, two-lane, multi-lane urban roads, and the associated intersections on these roads.
- **Tanzania** announced its withdrawal of United Nation's "**Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework**" citing security reasons and lack of funds. Tanzania considered a safe haven for refugees, particularly from conflict-hit Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi. Earlier, **United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)** granting Citizenship for some refugees and their applications. The main specification New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (also known as New York Declaration) calls upon UNHCR to develop and initiate the application of CRRF.

February – 15

- **President of India** Inaugurated the International conference '**Agricon 2018**' and '**Agriexpo 2018**' at **Kanpur**.
- **Meghalaya governor** inaugurates the '**Friendship Gate**' Constructed with an aim to have a **Wagah – likebeating retreat ceremony for the India and Bangladesh border guards**.
- **India's first radio festival** is being held in **New Delhi** to mark **World Radio day**. The theme for world Radio day 2018 is radio and sports.
- The **Hampi monument's** which are part of **Karnataka's cultural Heritage** will be one of the **10 tourist destinations across India** to be developed as '**Iconic Tourism Site**' by the Central Government.

February – 16

- **Union Government** extended the anti-narcotics scheme for **3 more years** to combat illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substance. The purpose of the scheme is to assist states and **Union Territories**, which are contributing in controlling the inter-state and cross-border drug trafficking.
- President **Ram NathKovind** hosted an **‘LPG Panchayat** at Rashtrapati Bhavan. It was organized by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY)**. The LPG Panchayat aims to provide a platform for LPG consumers to interact with each other, promote mutual learning and share experiences.
- A new research by **US-based** Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (**IEEFA**) showed that nine major **global power markets**, including **India’s Tamil Nadu, have achieved an outsize share of wind and solar generation.**
 - The report, ‘Power-Industry Transition, Here and Now’, includes case studies of markets — ranked by relative share of reliance on variable renewables — that include Denmark, South Australia, Uruguay, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Texas, California and the Indian state of Tamil Nadu.
 - Wind and solar accounted for 14.3 per cent of Tamil Nadu’s total electricity generation in 2016-17.
- The President of India, Shri **Ram NathKovind**, inaugurated **the international conference ‘Agricon 2018’ and ‘Agriexpo 2018’** at Chandrashekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology (**CSAUT**), **Kanpur on February 14, 2018.**
 - Speaking on the occasion, the President said that in a country as vast as India, problems of farmers in different regions are different.
 - We will have to find solutions according to their needs. Water is a common concern.

- In this regard, the Government has promoted the concept of “per drop, more crop” and this message should reach every farmer in the country.
- **Meghalaya Governor Ganga Prasad** has inaugurated the "**Friendship Gate**" constructed with an aim to have a **Wagah-like beating retreat ceremony** for the **Indian** and **Bangladesh** border guards.
 - The Friendship Gate has been constructed near Integrated Check post, 90 km South of capital Shillong on border with Bangladesh.
- In an effort to put **India firmly** among the top nations in the world theatre map, the country will play host to the **8th Theatre Olympics**, the greatest carnival of thespianism. **The 51-day theatre** extravaganza which will be inaugurated at **Red Fort, will see 450 shows** including 65 shows by international artistes, 600 ambient performances and 250 youth forum shows.
- India's first radio festival is being held in **New Delhi** to mark World Radio Day. The festival is being organized by International Association of Women in Radio and Television, in collaboration with **UNESCO**. The festival includes live performances, an exhibition, and slotted panel discussions. Apart from touching on the theme for **World Radio Day 2018 - radio and sports** - the festival is also examining the potential of the medium as a platform for social change, ways to make it more creative and will trace the journey of music on the radio.
- The **West Bengal** government already enrolled 50 lakh people under its own Swasthya Sathi programme, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced the decision to **opt out of Centre's 'Modicare' scheme**. This makes West Bengal the first state to withdraw from the ambitious programme. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced the **NHPS on February 1, making it the biggest global plan to provide quality health coverage to a population larger than the combined citizenry of the US, UK, Germany, and France**.
- **Bhalupani village in Balrampur district of Chhattisgarh got electricity for the first time** after its district administration installed solar panels for every family.

- **“Paschim Lehar”**, a tri-service maritime exercise was held off **India’s western coast from February 12, 2018** Objective behind conducting this exercise was to build interoperability among **Indian Navy, Air Force and Army**

February – 17

- **ISRO** planning to launch **chandrayan – 2 mission** around **April this year**. It is the country’s second mission to the moon.
- National Conference **“Agriculture 2022 – Doubling Farmer Income”** started at New Delhi
- Mumbai to have **India’s first artificial Intelligence centre**. It is inaugurated by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**

February – 18

- The Union Agriculture & Farmers welfare Minister addressed at the National **Banana festival, 2018** held in Thiruvananthapuram, **Kerala**
- **PM Modi** will inaugurate the Fourth Container Terminal (**FCT**) of **Jawaharlal Nehru port Trust** in **Mumbai**
- The Government will set up **562** more Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in tribal areas across the country
- **PM Modi** inaugurates the **‘Magnetic Maharashtra’** convergence summit 2018 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- **Lok Sabha Speaker sumitra Mahajan** inaugurated the common wealth parliamentary Association (**CPA**) conference in Patna, Bihar.

- **Shilpa Shetty's the Diary of Domestic Diva' launched. It contains recipes of various dishes along with the caloric intake details.**

February – 19

- **President of Iran, Hassan Rouhani arrived in India on a three-day State visit. He has signed these MoUs with India:**
 - Agreement for the **Avoidance of Double Taxation**
 - MoU on Exemption from Visa requirement for holders of **Diplomatic Passports.**
 - **Exchange** of Instrument of **Ratification of Extradition Treaty.**
 - Lease Contract for **ShahidBeheshti Port- Phase 1 of Chabahar** during Interim Period between Port and Maritime Organization (PMO), Iran and India Ports Global Limited (IPGL).
 - MoU on Cooperation in the field of **Traditional Systems of Medicine.**
 - MoU on the establishment of an **Expert Group on Trade Remedy Measures** to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest.
 - MoU on Cooperation in the field of **Agriculture and Allied Sectors.**
 - MoU on Cooperation in the field of **Health and Medicine.**
 - MoU on **Postal Cooperation.**

- The government will set up **562 more** Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in tribal areas across the country that will be on par with the **Navodaya Vidyalayas**, Tribal Affairs minister **Jual Oram** said.
 - Detailing about the budgetary provisions for budget 2018-19, **Oram** said 271 EMRSs have already been sanctioned out of which 190 are currently operational.
 - The **EMRS** are planned under a government scheme for model residential school for Indian tribals (Scheduled Tribes) across India.

- The **Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister, Shri Radha Mohan Singh** addressed at the National Banana Festival, 2018 held in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.
 - India is the largest producer of banana in the world with **29.7 million tonnes** from an area of 0.88 million hectares with a productivity of **37 MT/ha**.
 - Although India accounts for only 15.5per cent in area, its contribution in the **world's production is 25.58per cent**.

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the Fourth Container Terminal (**FCT**) of **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust** in **Mumbai**.
 - The project is being implemented in two Phases. i.e. Phase –I and Phase –II. The indicative cost of the project for Phase – I isRs 4719 Crore. The foundation stone for the project was laid by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** in October 2015, and Phase I has been completed in record time.

- The **Ministry of Railways** instructed all rail zones to discontinue pasting reservation charts on reserved coaches of all trains at the **A1, A and B category** stations as a pilot project for 6 months, starting **March 1**.

- Ola successfully launched '**Auto Unnati**' program to assist its auto driver partners through the firm's '**ChaloBefikar**' insurance program, family welfare initiatives. The aim is to create an inclusive environment in which driver partners can operate and thrive. '**Auto Unnati**' is a milestone program in the same direction that will

offer better financial and emotional stability for thousands of auto drivers in **Bangalore.**

The program is aimed to enhance business assurance plan to ensure a healthy professional ecosystem for Auto driver partners and for those hoping to target high business profits with ease.

- **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** met the farmers who incurred heavy crop losses due to the **heavy hailstorm that occurred recently at Sagar district.** **Around 984 villages** were affected by the **hailstorms.**
- Setting its own records and achieving milestones, India's space research organization **ISRO** is set to launch Chandrayaan-2 mission around **April this year.** The Union Minister for Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh** said that Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) is planning to launch Chandrayaan-2 Mission around April this year. **Chandrayaan-2 is the country's second mission to the moon.**
- A sudden diarrhea outbreak in Southern suburbs of **Kolkata** has **scared citizens.** Out of **fear of water contamination,** many citizens are buying packaged drinking waters but a recent sample test found **bacteria in the packaged water.** Kolkata Corporation officials on Friday collected water samples from local companies that produce **packaged drinking water in affected areas.**
- PM **Modi** inaugurated **Maharashtra's first global investor's summit** **Magnetic Maharashtra: convergence 2018 in Mumbai.**

February – 20

- In a major policy initiative to protect the savings of the investors, the Union Cabinet has given its approval to introduce the following bills in the Parliament:-
 - Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018 in parliament. The bill is aimed at tackling the menace of illicit deposit-taking activities in the country. Companies/ institutions running such schemes exploit existing regulatory gaps and lack of strict administrative measures to dupe poor and gullible people of their hard-earned savings.

- Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018. The Union Cabinet gave its approval to introduce the Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018 in Parliament. In order to facilitate the orderly growth of the Chit Funds sector and remove bottlenecks being faced by the Chit Funds industry, thereby enabling greater financial access of people to other financial products, the following amendments to the Chit Funds Act, 1982 have been proposed:
- Use of the words "Fraternity Fund" for chit business under Sections 2(b) and 11(1) of the Chit Funds Act, 1982, to signify its inherent nature, and distinguish its working from "Prize Chits" which are banned under a separate legislation;
 - Mr. J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has addressed the Global Digital Health Partnership Summit, at Canberra, Australia. The Union Health Minister spoke on the topic: Making Digital Health Services a Priority in Healthcare Reform. He stated that India is committed to reforms in health service delivery using ICT under Digital India Program of Government of India.
 - The Goa government has launched a motorcycle ambulance service to provide quick medical help to patients in need in the coastal state. Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar unveiled a batch of 20 two-wheeler ambulances which would be deputed in high risk areas like the coastal belt. These motorbikes will be equipped with medical facilities, including oxygen cylinders.
 - India has been ranked 12th-worst among 52 low-middle income countries based on the number of children dying within the first month of their birth, which is 25.4 per 1,000 live births. Pakistan is the worst with 45.6 newborn deaths per 1,000 live births, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
 - Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched 4 food canteens at Faridabad, Gurugram, Hisar, and Yamunanagar via video-conferencing from Chandigarh. These have been set up under the '**Antyodaya Aahaar Yojana**' to **provide healthy, nutritious and hygienic food at only Rs 10 per meal to all poor and needy.**
 - **Milkbasket, India's first and largest micro-delivery platform recognized as 'Startup of the Year' 2017 at the 7th Small Business Awards held in New Delhi.** The startup of the year award is dedicated to young SMEs, aged 7 years or less, with great potential to become big in local/international markets.

- **The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has organized a National Conference under the title of “Agriculture 2022 – Doubling Farmers’ Income” in New Delhi.** The main aim of the conference is to build a consensus around appropriate recommendations that will help in shaping and sharpening the vision of the Government on Doubling Farmers’ Income by 2022 into actionable points.

February – 21

- India and United Kingdom jointly launched research projects on ‘Water Quality Research’ and ‘Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment’. These projects aim to deliver mutual benefits and research solutions the UK and India, besides addressing shared global sustainable development goals on clean water and clean energy.
- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its approval to the construction of 4.531 km long 2-Lane Bi-Directional Silkyara Bend – Barkot Tunnel with escape passage including approaches on Dharasu -Yamunotri section between Chainage 25.400 Km. and Chainage 51.000 Km in Uttarakhand.** The project will be falling along NH-134 (old NH-94) in the State of Uttarakhand.
- The Union Cabinet approved **multi-crore developmental projects worth Rs 11,661 crore, which include doubling and electrification of many lines.** The new projects will herald good news for passengers as the crucial lines will reduce congestion on the existing network, enabling better punctuality of trains.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi flagged off the Palace Queen Humsafar Express between Mysuru and Udaipur in Mysuru Railway Station.** The train between Mysuru and Udaipur will act as a backbone of tourism, an employment generating industry.
- In view to increase awareness and remove taboo about menstrual hygiene, **the Maharashtra government has decided to launch Asmita Yojana on the International Women’s Day (March 8).** High costs of sanitary pads, unavailability in rural areas and awkwardness among women to purchase them from male chemists are the main reasons behind such low awareness.

- The Virgin Group signed an “intent agreement” with Maharashtra to build a hyper loop transportation system between Mumbai and Pune, which aims to reduce the travel time between the two mega cities to 20 minutes from the three hours at present.
- The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) test-fired Agni II medium-range nuclear-capable missile from Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. The missile has a strike range of more than 2,000 km. The launch comes one week after India test successfully fired indigenously developed surface-to-surface nuclear capable Agni-I (A) ballistic missile.
- India will host the World Environment Day 2018, Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan and United Nations Environment Program chief Erik Solheim said. The theme for the World Environment Day-2018, held every year on June 5, is “Beat Plastic Pollution”. Canada hosted the event in 2017.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on February 19, addressed World Congress on Information Technology in Hyderabad via Video Conference.

February – 22

- Union Government has issued order setting up the ‘Niti Forum for North-East’. The forum will be co-chaired by the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog Mr. Rajiv Kumar and Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER), Dr. Jitendra Singh. The NITI Forum for Northeast is tasked to identify various constraints on the way of accelerated, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the North East Region of the country.
- The Centre has constituted a committee headed by the Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog, Rajiv Kumar to study the Brahmaputra and flood control measures in Assam and neighbouring states.
- The Ministry of Railways and the Maharashtra government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up a rail coach factory at Latur, Maharashtra. The project aims to generate direct employment to thousands and manifold indirect employment opportunities in Marathwada, one of the most backward regions of the state.

- Facebook India will work with the Andhra Pradesh government in order to take up innovative pilot projects in the state. Both of them have decided to work on providing internet facility to every household through fiber grid project, internet, WiFi, and TV services at nominal cost of Rs 149.
- Two defence industrial corridors were announced in the Union Budget 2018-19. PM Narendra Modi announced that his government will establish a Rs 20,000-crore defence industrial production corridor in Bundelkhand — a region divided between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh — that will generate 250,000 jobs and bring development to one of the most impoverished regions of the country. Earlier, the government had announced to build first such corridor between Chennai and Bengaluru – connecting Kattupalli port, Chennai, Trichy, Coimbatore and Hosur.
- Kerala Government has made vaccination compulsory for school admissions from next academic year onwards. Parents will have to show details of shots given to children at the time of enrolment in schools. The move comes in the wake of stiff opposition from certain communities against the vaccination drive.
- The Delhi government announced the launch of “Mission Buniyaad” for improving learning skills of children studying in state and municipal-run schools. Under the programme which will run from April to June for Class 3 to 5 in Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) schools and for Class 6 to 8 in government’s schools, children will undergo a reading level assessment based on which they will be enrolled in specialized “Mission Buniyaad” classes.
- Actor Kamal Haasan launched his political party MakkalNeedhiMaaiam (people justice centre) in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. He also unfurled his party’s flag, which has six hands – three in red and three in white – joined together around a star on a white background.
- A three-day India International Textiles Expo (IITExpo) of India began in Sri Lankan capital of Colombo. It is being organized by Power loom Development & Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL) with the support of Union Ministry of Textiles & Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

February – 23

- Israeli Ambassador Mr **Daniel Carmon** informed that a **Centre for Agriculture**, with collaboration of Israeli expertise, is going to be inaugurated in **Mizoram on 7th March** this year.
 - This will be the first such centre in **the North East region of India** that is being established with Israeli collaboration, he added.
- The **CPI(M)-led LeftFront** government in **Kerala** has made vaccination compulsory for school admissions from next academic year onwards.
 - Parents will have to show details of shots given to children at the time of enrolment in schools.
 - Earlier the government had constituted a 17-member experts panel headed by Dr E Ekbal to chalk out a comprehensive health policy.
- The **Gandhi Nagar railway station** in Jaipur, became the country's **first major railway station** to be fully-managed by women.
 - Gandhi Nagar is important railway station in Jaipur situated on the Jaipur-Delhi rail route with more than **50 trains passing through the station** out of which **25 halting at the station.**
- Agriculture Minister affairs Radha Mohan Singh launched six new features in the **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** platform to make it more user-friendly. The six new features of e-NAM platform includes-
 - MIS dashboard for better analysis,
 - BHIM payment facility by traders,
 - Mobile payment facility by traders,
 - Enhanced features on mobile app such as gate entry and payment through mobile,

- Integration of farmer database, and
- e-Learning module.
- The **Telangana Government** signed an MOU with Taoyuan City of Taiwan for better technology partnership in the state. The agreement was signed after the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) 2018 in Hyderabad..
- **UttarPradesh's Khadi** and Village Industries Board signed a pact with **Amazon India** to facilitate online selling of Khadi products. As part of a **MoU**, Amazon India will educate, train and enable rural khadi artisans to directly sell their products to **Amazon.in customers across the country under the brand of UP Khadi**.
- **US Marines in Thailand** for the **Cobra Gold training exercise** took part in one of the wildest parts of the drills - drinking cobra blood. **This was the 37th edition of the exercise**. Cobra Gold is an annual military exercise for Marines and one of the largest in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Government has constituted **Empowered expert committee** to select **20 institution of eminence** from among **104** institutions that have applied for the status. The committee will be headed by former chief election commissioner **N Gopalaswami**.
- At the UP Investors Summit, the government launched a **mobile application – e-Saathi**. Through the app, people will be able to avail public services sitting at home.

February – 24

- The **Haryana Government** launched **Parivartan**, a scheme designed to address **10 issues** including cleanliness and pollution in **46 developmental blocks of the state**.

- **Shri Anant Kumar Singh** inaugurates **Five day Handicraft and gifts fair** at **India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida**
- The **2 day “RAS BANARAS SANSKRITI MAHOTSAV”** concludes in **Varanasi**. The festival witnessed **folk dance and songs, food & shopping delights** in **fullswing**.
- To celebrate the **idea** of unity in **diversity**, **Ministry** of culture is organizing a **‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav’** under the **‘Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat’** in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Assam** has organized a tribal festival called **‘AadiMahotsava’** at **Gandhi Mandir Indoor Stadium** field in **Guwahati** to celebrate **the ethnic tribal culture of the country**.
- **Assam** Government will be observing **September 22** as **‘Rhino day’** to generate public awareness on protection of the **one – horned pachyderm**.

February – 25

- Union Commerce and Industry ministry has appointed four institutes (IIFT, ICAI, NICMAR and ICSI) to interact with stakeholders and suggest measures to push up India’s ranking in “ease of doing business” Index.
- 15th editions of BioAsia, the Annual flagship event of the government of Telangana was held in Hyderabad. The theme of BioAsia 2018 was “Right Time, Right Now”
- India’s premier defense research institute DRDO carried out successful flight of its “RUSTOM 2 DRONE”, a medium altitude long endurance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) at Karnataka.

- Scientists from BSI have identified a new plant species from two protected National Parks in West Bengal. Named “Drypetes Kalamii”. The plant is named after President Abdul Kalam

February – 26

- The **44th** edition of **Khajuraho Dance Festival 2018** was held at Khajuraho temple, a **UNESCO** world heritage site in **Madhya Pradesh**. It was inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Governor **Anandiben Patel** and was organized by culture department of state government.
- **Chinese technology giant Huawei** and telecom services provider **Bharti Airtel** announced to have successfully conducted **5G network trial under** a test set-up in India. The trial was conducted at **Airtel’s Network Experience Centre** in **Manesar (Gurugram)**.
- **Andhra Pradesh** woke up welcoming over more than **2000 delegates** in its Partnership Summit 2018. **The 3rd edition of Partnership Summit 2018 aims** to facilitate investments, foster innovations in creating business models. Chief Minister **Chandrababu Naidu** expressed his keenness towards Partnership Summit 2018 eager to establish partnerships aimed at collective development and hoping for great engagements with global investors at the Partnership Summit 2018
- **Darjeeling tea but little bit we know** about the **grief of workers of Tea Garden in North Bengal**. Deaths from **malnutrition**, suicide owing to poverty are regular phenomena in those tea estates. In a change, the Bengal government directed all tea estates in the Darjeeling hills to pay by March 10 the bonus dues of workers for last year.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Amma Two Wheeler Scheme (in Chennai)** of the state government coinciding with the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Jayalalithaa**. The scheme, with the objective of enhancing the livelihood of working women, **aims to provide subsidised two-wheelers to women, transgenders and differently-abled persons. Nearly 23,000**

beneficiaries have registered for the scheme, which provides subsidies ranging up to **50%** of the cost of the vehicle

- **Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi** launched **various development projects worth Rs.1000 crores** in **Daman & Diu**. He distributed certificates to beneficiaries of programs and addressed a public meeting at the Daman college ground.
- A **two- day International Conference** on Sustainable **Biofuels** is jointly being organized by Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India on behalf of Mission Innovation and Biofuture Platform at the Stein Auditorium, **India Habitat Centre, New Delhi**.
- **India** has successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable '**Dhanush**' **ballistic** missile with a strike range of **350 km** from a naval ship off **Odisha coast**, defence officials said.
 - The **surface-to-surface** missile, a naval variant of the indigenously-developed '**Prithvi**' missile, was test-fired from the ship positioned near **Paradip** in the **Bay of Bengal**.
 - '**Dhanush**' missile is capable of carrying a payload of 500 kg and hitting both land and **sea-based targets**.
- India will host the first International Solar Alliance (**ISA**) summit on 11th March, which will be attended by **French President Emmanuel Macron** and United Nations Secretary General Antonio **Guterres**.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** inaugurated **two-day Rasotsav**, jointly organised by the state tourism department, the **Brij Tirth Vikas Parishad** and the **Brajbhumi Vikas trust**.

- The **third Partnership Summit** of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) begin in **Visakhapatnam**, with over **2,000 delegates** attending the meet, 40 per cent of them being from abroad.
 - Vice-president **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the three-day event.
 - This summit is being jointly organised by the Andhra Pradesh State Government, the CII, and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion under Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

February – 27

- The second week of **March** will witness **Andaman & Nicobar** Command hosting a multinational mega event **MILAN 2018**. MILAN is a congregation of littoral navies conducted biennially by **Indian Navy** at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- **DRDO** successfully flew its **Rustom2** at its Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) at **Chalakere** at **Chitradurga**. This flight assumes significance due to the fact that this is the **first flight** in user configuration with **higher power engine**.
- **The 21st national conference on e-Governance** will be held in **Hyderabad**. The government of India and **Telangana Administrative Reforms** department are jointly organising the conference with the **main theme around- technology for accelerating development**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the 'Run for New India' marathon in Surat, Gujarat**. The Marathon is aimed at creating awareness about social causes and call upon all to resolve to build a New India.
- PM Narendra Modi addressed the **2nd India-Korea Business Summit in New Delhi**. The theme of the Summit this year is **“India-Korea: Scaling up the Special Strategic Relationship through Trade and Investments”**. The Summit aims to create the framework for an open and action-oriented dialogue between top business leaders and Government officials from both countries.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid foundation stones for projects worth **1000 crore rupees** in Daman in the union territory of **Daman and Diu**. PM distributed keys for scooters to differently-abled beneficiaries, '**SWABHIMAN**' cards to pregnant and Lactating Women, '**Badhai Kit**' to the newly born girl children under '**Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**'.
- Amritsar, the city of **Golden Temple** will soon get **Rs 100 crores** for the execution of various development works. **Punjab** Chief Minister Captain **Amarinder Singh** announced a grant of Rs.100 crore for the execution of various development works in Amritsar while making it clear that paucity of funds would not be allowed to scuttle the execution of these projects.
- The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Andhra Pradesh** Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) and the Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Mission (**APSECM**), state-designated agency for providing technical assistance to the **APCRDA**, for construction of energy efficient buildings as per Energy Conservation Building Code (**ECBC**) – 2017.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has started working towards developing '**igloos**' on **Moon**, called the lunar habitats, for safe keeping of astronauts.
- The Odisha government on Monday launched '**KHUSHI**' a scheme to provide free **sanitary napkins to school girls** under this scheme.
- **The 15th edition of BioAsia**, the annual flagship event of the Government of Telangana, was held **Hyderabad**. The theme of **BioAsia 2018** was "**Right Time, Right now**" focusing on strategies to keep up with the pace of change and innovative ways to develop new models for distribution & healthcare delivery.

February – 28

- In a move to provide **Delhi** residents relief from the **burgeoning air pollution** crisis in the city, the **Central Government** has sanctioned schemes worth **Rs.1200 crore** an alarming pollution levels in the capital.

- **Union Minister of Drinking water and sanitation Sushri Uma Bharati** launched the **Swajal Pilot Project** at **Village Bhikampura, Karauli, and Rajasthan**. It ensures the availability of clean drinking water to every household round the year.
- **Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare** chaired the **5th meeting** of the Mission steering Group of the National Health Mission (NHM) in **New Delhi**.
- **Country's first Aviation Multi Skill development Centre** launched in **Chandigarh** by Union Civil aviation Minister **P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju**
- A **High level Committee** chaired by Union Home Minister **Rajnath singh** approved a Central assistance of around **Rs.6000 Crore** for nine states which suffered from **natural calamities during 2017 – 2018**.
- Government starts process to build **India's first defence industrial 'Quad'** (quadrilateral corridor) linking **Chennai** with four other cities of **Tamil Nadu** to **promote industries manufacturing weapons and military equipments**.
- **Haryana** cabinet approves **death penalty for rape of victim aged 12 or less**.
- **Indian Railways launch** idea competition '**SRIJAN**' to redevelop over **600 major railway stations in India**. SRIJAN stands for '**Station Rejuvenation through Joint Action**'.

Sports

February – 1

- **Sharathkamal** won the **National Men's singles title** for the eighth time at the **11 even sports senior Table Tennis Nationals**, in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**.
- **Suthirta** Won the **National Women's single championship**

February – 3

- In **India Open Boxing tournament**,**Mary Kom** clinches gold which is held in **New Delhi**

- **Vidarbha under – 11 Cricket** team once again proved their excellence by claims **U – 19 Cooch Behar Trophy**.

February – 4

- India won **U-19 cricket cup** at the **Bay Oval** in New Zealand.
- **Saurav Ghosal** becomes the highest Ranked Indian squash player.
- Two athletes **Luger Shiva Keshavan and Jagdish Singh** will represent India at winter Olympics.

February – 5

- **Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma** won the **maybank** championship, at the **Saujana Golf** and country club in **Malaysia**

February – 7

- On February 5, 2018, 21-year old Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma was elevated from 193 to 72, in the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR). Standing at 72nd position in OWGR, Shubhankar is now the highest-ranked Indian in the world surpassing Olympian Anirban Lahiri, who is currently placed 76th. Shubhankar meteoric rise started in December 2017, with his first European Tour win at the Joburg Open.

February – 9

- The **first Khelo India School Games concluded in New Delhi** with sports powerhouse **Haryana topped the overall medal tally**. The state won **102 medals** which include 38 gold and 26 silver.
- **Maharashtra** with 110 medals (36 of them gold) finished second while **Delhi with 94 medals** came third. **Sports Minister, Col RajyavardhanRathore** presented the top State Haryana with the glittering trophy.

February – 10

- **Haryana** Crowned champions of **Khelo India school** games that concluded in **New Delhi**.

February – 13

- **Steve Smith** Australian Cricket Captain won his **second Allan Border Medal** in Melbourne, Australia.
- **Kishan Gangolli** of **Karnataka** won the **National A chess championship for Blind** for the **5th consecutive time**, at the **Andheri Sports Complex** in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Sharmila Nicollet** has become the **first Indian golfer** to qualify for the china Ladies PGA Tour

February – 14

- World's first robot ski competition held in South Korea "**The Edge of Robot: Ski Robot challenge**"

February – 15

- **Tamil Nadu** has won the **senior women's National football Championship** for the **first time**.

February – 16

- **Tamil Nadu** has won the **Senior Women's National Football Championship** for the first time. Tamil Nadu, which was playing its first-ever final, defeated **Manipur, 2-1 at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha**.

February – 17

- **Roger Federer** becomes **oldest ATP World number one by beating** Dutchman Robin Haase.

February – 20

- Roger Federer marked his impending return to the top of the world rankings by sweeping aside second seed Grigor Dimitrov in the Rotterdam Open final. The 20-time Grand Slam champion beat world number five Dimitrov 6-2-6-2 comfortably in 55 minutes for his 97th title.

- The promising Manavaditya Singh Rathore has won a silver medal in the Qatar Open Shotgun meet in Lusail, Qatar. Participating in the junior men's trap event, Manavaditya shot 118 to finish second on the podium behind Italy's Angelo Scalzone, who shot 119. Germany's Jeremy Schulz won the bronze medal with a score of 115.

February – 21

- Mumbai Virat Kohli became only the second batsman ever after South Africa's AB de Villiers to have earned more than 900 rating points in ICC Rankings, in Test and ODI cricket concurrently. Kohli also became the first Indian batsmen ever to have breached the 900 points-mark in ODIs, extending his lead over de Villiers. Kohli now has 909 points, well ahead of de Villiers who has 844.

February – 22

- India's highest ranked men's singles player Kidambi Srikanth and Olympic medallists PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal will lead the country's challenge in the 2018 Commonwealth Games, which is slated to be held in Gold Coast, Australia from April 4.

February – 25

- ArunaBudda Reddy became the first Indian gymnast to win an individual medal at the gymnastics world cup by bagging a bronze medal in the woman's vault event in Melbourne, Australia.
- Jithin Paul becomes first Indian athlete to be banned by National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for possession of drug.

February – 26

- Reigning Commonwealth Games champion **ParupalliKashyap** overcame Malaysia's **June Wei Cheam** in straight games in the men's singles final to clinch the **Austrian Open International Challenge**, his first international title in over three years.

- **Canada's own first franchise-based Twenty20 league "Global T20 Canada"**, was announced in New Delhi. The Global T20 Canada League will begin functioning from July 2018 at three venues in Toronto. It is **conceptualised, designed, developed and managed by Mercuri Group** with Cricket Canada.

February – 27

- **Aruna Budda Reddy** has created history by becoming **the first Indian to win an individual medal at the Gymnastics World Cup in Melbourne, Australia**. She clinched a **Bronze medal** in the Women's Vault.
- **Indian stars Seema Poonia and MC Mary Kom** have settled for Silver medals after losing in the final of **69th Strandja Memorial Boxing tournament at Sofia in Bulgaria**.

Banking and Finance

February – 1

- **Asian Development Bank** and Indian government have signed **USD 250 million loan** agreement for construction of all **weather roads in five Indian States** under **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**
- **State Bank of India** has initiated a **pilot scheme of credit cards for Farmers** compared to regular credit cards is that the interest rates on **Farmers credit card** would be much lower.
- **Dilip Buildcon(DBL)** has bagged a road project worth **Rs.565.02 crore** from **NHAI** in Maharashtra. The project is for **four/ six laning of Karodi to Telwadi** road section of **NH21 (new NH 52) in Maharashtra**
- **Indian Government and World Bank** signed a **\$100 million loan** agreement to promote rural economy in across **26 district of Tamil Nadu**
- **World Bank** signed **\$30 million** with **Rewa Ultra mega solar limited** to develop **world's largest solar power plant in Rewa and Mandsaur** in Madhya Pradesh

February – 2

- Government has made the following amendments in the prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 through Finance Act 2018 in order to enhance its effectiveness and widen its scope. Definition of “**proceeds of crime**” has been amended to include **property equivalent held outside the country**

February – 4

- Inland waterways Authority of India signed a project agreement with **World Bank** for **Jal Marg Vikas Project** aimed at enhancing navigation on National Waterway – 1 from **Varanasi to Haldia**.
- Under the Union Budget 2018 India’s annual Financial allocation to Nepal for 2018 – 19 has nearly doubled to **Rs.650 crore**.

February – 5

- As announced in **Union Budget 2018**, providing **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** will be mandatory for any entity entering into a financial transaction of **Rs.2.5 lakh** or more with effect from **April 1 2018**.

February – 7

- According to the report by BMI Research, India’s fiscal deficit in financial year 2018-19 is expected to come in at 3.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- **Fiscal Deficit forecast for 2018-19 by BMI Research:** Situation wherein, a government’s total expenditures exceeds the revenue that it generates is referred to as fiscal deficit.

February – 8

- On February 7, 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced Sixth Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement for financial year 2017-18. This time too, the Policy Repo Rate has been kept unchanged.

- .On February 7, 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced setting up ombudsman for addressing customer grievances in the non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).

Ombudsman for NBFCs:

- Detailed rules will be notified by the end of February 2018.
- Initially, only deposit taking NBFCs will come under the purview of Ombudsman.

February – 9

- **IndusInd Bank** launched its **new Sonic Identity, which is essentially a musical logo called 'MOGO'**, as part of its branding initiatives. The objective for associating to a sonic identity is building the Bank's brand imagery with the strategic use of music and sound for brand experiences and audience connection.

February – 12

- Direct tax collections grew by nearly **20 per cent** between **April and January** this year with strong growth in both corporate and personal income tax receipts. According to official data released, net direct tax collections grew by 19.3 per cent up to **January 2018 to Rs 6.95-lakh crore.**
- **The country's largest lender SBI wrote off bad loans worth Rs 20,339 crore in 2016-17**, the highest among all the public sector banks, which had a collective, write off of Rs 81,683 crore for the fiscal. The data pertains to the period when the associate banks of State Bank of India (**SBI**) were not merged with it.
- Besides **SBI, Punjab National Bank** had a write-off of Rs 9,205 crore in 2016-17, followed by **Bank of India** (Rs 7,346 crore), **Canara Bank** (Rs 5,545 crore) and **Bank of Baroda** (Rs 4,348 crore).

February – 19

- The **Apex bank** issued a notification in **Mumbai**, saying such denial of service causes inconvenience to the **public at large as shopkeepers and traders refuse to accept coins for payment of goods and services**. The branches to accept coins of all denominations tendered at their counters either for exchange or for deposit in accounts
Also, **RBI** advised all banks to accept coins, particularly in one and two rupee denominations by **weightment or sachets of 100 coins each**.
- Russian space agency **Roskosmos** has successfully launched Progress **MS-08**, an unmanned cargo spacecraft for the International Space Station (**ISS**). It was launched onboard of Soyuz-2.1a rocket from Russian-leased **Baikonur** launch facility in **Kazakhstan**. **Soyuz-2.1a** has four strap-on boosters and core engine, all fueled by a mix of **kerosene and liquid oxygen**.
- **Russia - US relation to face another major crisis** as the federal grand jury indicted 13 Russian nationals and three Russian entities for alleged illegal interference in the **2016** presidential elections. The **Special Counsel Robert Mueller's** office has charged them with conspiracy to defraud the **United States**.

February – 22

- In the wake of the Rs 11,300 crore fraud at the Punjab National Bank, the Reserve Bank of India has constituted a five member panel under former board member Y H Malegam to look into the wide divergence by banks in asset classification and provisioning and reasons for frauds and measures to prevent it and also asked them to strengthen the SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) operating environment.
- The regulator National Housing Bank (NHB) has approved the merger of Capital First along with Capital Home Finance and Capital First Securities Limited with IDFC Bank.

February – 23

- Capital First announced that the regulator **National Housing Bank (NHB)** approved the merger of the company along with Capital Home Finance and Capital First Securities Limited with IDFC Bank. The amalgamation is subject to the receipt of approval from the Reserve Bank of India and other statutory and regulatory approvals.
- **Venezuela** becomes the **first sovereign** country to officially launch its **first crypto currency** called petro backed by oil gas, gold and diamond reserves to circumvent US led financial sanctions.

February – 26

- **Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd (ABIPBL)** started operations, making it the **fifth payments bank to roll out operations**. The Reserve Bank has issued a **licenceto** the bank under **Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949** to carry on the business of payments bank in India
- **The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **\$84 million loan for improvement and expansion of water supply in Bhagalpur and Gaya towns in Bihar**. The tranche 2 loan is part of the \$200 million **multi-tranche financing facility (MFF)** for the Bihar Urban Development Investment Program that was approved by ADB in 2012.

Awards & Recognition

February – 1

- **Union Ministry of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences and Technology, YS Chowdhury presented the Geospatial World Excellence Award – 2018 to Odisha at the Geospatial world Forum Meeting in Hyderabad.**

February – 2

- **Magadhiwriter SheshAnandMadhukar**, who has been working extensively for the development of the language, was honoured with this year's SahityaAkademiBhashaSamman award.
 - The **second** writer of **Magadhi** language to be given the award, **Madhurkar** was conferred the award, comprising aRs 1 lakh cheque and a memento, by **SahityaAkademi President Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.**

February – 3

- **Shabnam Asthana Wins “Times Power Woman 2017” award which is held in Pune, Maharashtra.**

February – 4

- Malaysia's Lai Jia Yi won the fourth edition of **International Young Chef Olympiad** in Kolkata.
- Veteran Film Producer and director **ShyamBenegal** to be bestowed with **V.ShantaramLifetime achievement award.**

February – 7

- **The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has been ranked the number one environment policy think tank in India.** The ranking was done by The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania. In the world level, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has obtained 16th position. It has improved 2 positions compared to last year.

- CSE has ranked **2nd in India and 38th in world-level** in the ‘**Energy and Resource** Policy Think Tanks’ category.
- CSE has ranked **6th in India and 123rd in the world-level** in the ‘**Best Independent Think Tanks**’ category.

February – 8

- **Dubai International Airport** has retained its position as **world’s busiest international airport** in terms of **passenger traffic**.

February – 9

- To set a record in the Guinness book for ice hockey on the world's **highest altitude**, an international level tournament was organized at Chiba Kargyam in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. Five international teams from USA, Germany, Canada, Slovakia and Russia and a local team participated in the tournament.

February – 10

- **Reliance Industries** wins **Golden Peacock Award 2017** for Corporate Social responsibility (CSR)
- PM **Modi** conferred with **highest Palestinian honour**

February – 11

- Renowned Hindi writer ‘**Krishna Sobti**’ has been conferred upon the **Jnanpith Award** for her contribution to **Hindi literature**.

February – 13

- On 10th February 2018, **VikasSathayean** Indian born engineer along with three other people won the scientific and engineer award, at the **Oscars 2018 Scientific and Technical awards** in Beverly hills’, US

February – 14

- **Ministry of Tourism** compiles monthly estimates of **Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) & FTAs on e- Tourist Visa** on the basis of Nationality-wise, Port-wise data received from Bureau of Immigration (BOI).
 - **The growth rate in FTAs in January 2018 over January 2017 was 8.4%.** During the month of January 2018, a total of 2.40 lakh foreign tourists arrived on **e-Tourist Visa** as compared to 1.52 lakh during the month of January 2017 registering a **growth of 58.5%**
- **Tata steel has been conferred with most ethical company award for the year 2018** by Ethisphere institute.
- Filmmaker **Ramesh Sippy** will be awarded the first **Raj Kapoor award for excellence in cinema.**

February – 16

- India's **UMANG** App won the **Best M-Government Service Award** in the Accessible Government Category and **Aadhar** won the **best emerging technology award**, at the **World Government Summit 2018**,

February – 17

- India's **Aadhaar** and **Umang App** have won awards at recently concluded **World Government Summit 2018 in Dubai**
- **Sanjiv Bajaj** – Managing Director. **Bajaj Finserv** has been named the **Earnest Young's Entrepreneur of the year 2017**

February – 18

- **Vikassathaye**, a pune born person has been honoured with the scientific and Engineering Academy Award at the **Oscars scientific and Technical awards 2018.**

February – 20

- **Former President Pranab Mukherjee will be conferred an honorary D.Litt by the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST).**
Mukherjee will be conferred the honour during IEST convocation on March 4 for his role as a public figure for many decades. IEST is in Howrah district's Shibpur. Mukherjee was awarded an honorary D.Litt by Jadavpur University in December last year.
- Business consultancy firm EY has named Bajaj Finserv's Sanjiv Bajaj as the entrepreneur for 2017. Sanjiv Bajaj will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo.

February – 21

- Indian cricket team members Ajinkya Rahane and Rohit Sharma have both been awarded Shiv Chhatrapati State Sports Awards by the Government of Maharashtra. Former India cricketer and assistant coach of Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Delhi Daredevils Pravin Amre was awarded Coach of the Year for the 2016-17.

February – 23

- Flying officer **Avani Chaturvedi** scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo. She flew a MiG-21 Bison in her first solo flight from Jamnagar base of Indian Air Force (IAF) in Gujarat.
- India ranked **81st** in the global corruption perception index for 2017, released by Transparency International, which named the country among the "**worst offenders**" in terms of graft and press freedom in the Asia Pacific region.
- Crime drama **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri** won maximum prizes at the **British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2018**, which took place at the Royal Albert Hall in London, UK.

- Here is the list of BAFTA's award winners

S. No.	Category	Winners
1.	Best Film	Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
2.	Outstanding British Film	Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
3.	Best Director	Guillermo Del Toro, The Shape of Water
4.	Best Actress	Frances McDormand, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
5.	Best Actor	Gary Oldman, Darkest Hour
6.	Best Supporting Actress	Allison Janney, I, Tonya
7.	Best Supporting Actor	Sam Rockwell, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
8.	Best Cinematography	Roger Deakins, Blade Runner 2049
9.	Original Screenplay	Martin McDonagh, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
10.	Adapted Screenplay	James Ivory, Call Me by Your Name
11.	British Short Film	Cowboy Dave British Short Animation: Poles Apart
12.	Special Visual Effects	Blade Runner 2049 Best Animated Film: Coco
13.	Best Film Not In The English Language	The Handmaiden Best Documentary: I Am Not Your Negro
14.	Best Production Design	Paul Austerberry, Jeff Melvin, Shane Vieau, The Shape of Water
15.	Best Editing	Jonathan Amos, Paul Machliss Baby Driver
16.	Best Sound	Dunkirk
17.	Best Original Music	The Shape of Water
18.	Best Costume Design	Phantom Thread
19.	Best Makeup & Hair	Darkest Hour
20.	The Ee Rising Star Award (Voted For By Public)	Daniel Kaluuya

Appointment and Resigns

February – 1

- **Lt. Gen Anil Chauhan** assumed charge as **new director general** of **Military operations (DGMO)** of the **Indian Army**
- **UK** appoints **First Woman Clare Lombardelli** as **Chief Economist to Finance Ministry**

February – 3

- **Shri Thanglura Darlong** has been appointed as the **next ambassador of India to Romania.**

February – 4

- **Neelam Kapur** appointed as **Director General of Sports Authority** of India
- **N.Chandrasekaran** headed Task Force to study Artificial Intelligence application in Ministry.

February – 5

- Justice **Syed Mahmud Hossain** has been appointed as **Chief Justice of Bangladesh.**

February – 6

- **NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant** was given an **extension** till June 30 next year
- **Shri A.K. Prasad** has been appointed as new **Financial Commissioner**, Railway Board
- **Atul Anand** has been appointed as the **Assistant Chief** of Naval Staff Foreign co-operation and Intelligence.

February – 7

- Jerome H. Powell became the 16th Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in the United States.

February – 9

- **SBI Card**, the country's second-largest credit card issuer, has appointed **Hardayal Prasad** as new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company. **He has replaced Vijay Jasuja.**

February – 10

- **Abdul Hamid** re-elected as President of **Bangladesh.**
- **Amitabh Bachchan** to be brand ambassador for the **Muthoot group.**

February – 11

- **Rakesh Singh** has been appointed as head of private banking at **HDFC Bank.**

February – 12

- **National Payment Corporation of India** Appointed **Biswamohan Mahapatra** as non executive chairman for two years with immediate effect.

February – 14

- **Kannada litterateur ChandrashekarKambar** has been elected as **president of the SahityaAkademi** in the election held for the post. He has replaced **Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.** Hindi poet **MadhavKoushik** has been elected as vice-president. This is the second time election was held in the history of **SahityaAkademi**, after **Ananthamurthy's** election to the post. Prof. **Kambar** has served as the member of the **Akademi** executive board for over 10 years and was vice-president for 2013-18.

February – 15

- **Chandrashekhara Kambara** elected **Sahitya Akademi** President.

- **Shri Ashok Das** has been appointed as the **next ambassador of India to Republic of Brazil**.
- **Jacob Zuma** resigned as President of **South Africa reluctantly heeding orders** by the **ruling African National Congress (ANC)**
- **KP Sharma Oil** has become **new Prime Minister of Nepal for the second time**.

February – 16

- **KP Sharma Oli** was named the **next prime minister of Nepal**

February – 17

- **Japan's Government** has reappointed Bank of Japan Governor '**Haruhiko Kuroda**' for another term

February – 18

- **Sachin Tendulkar** has been made the brand ambassador of the upcoming **T20 Mumbai league**.

February – 20

- Archaeologist and historian **Arvind P. Jamkhedkar will be the next Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)**. He will replace Prof. K. Sudershan Rao. The post fell vacant after Prof. Rao's retirement. Prof. Jamkhedkar is at present Chancellor of Deccan College, Pune, known in academic circles for its archaeology department.

February – 21

- **Debashish Mukherjee and Murali Ramaswami** have been appointed executive directors of **Canara Bank and Vijaya Bank** respectively, according to an official order. Mukherjee is at present the general manager of **United Bank of India** and Ramaswami is the GM of **Vijaya Bank**. Mukherjee's appointment is initially for three years but it is extendable by two years after review of his performance, the order issued by personnel ministry said.

February – 23

- **K.P. Sharma Oli** was sworn in as **Nepal's Prime Minister** for the second time, weeks after his Left alliance with the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-Maoist) swept the parliamentary polls. **He has replaced Sher Bahadur Deuba.**

February – 27

- **Michael McCormack** has been elected **new Deputy Prime Minister of Australia**. He has replaced former Deputy Prime Minister **Barnaby Joyce**.
- South African pacer **Morne Morkel** has announced retirement to **international cricket after the home test series**
- **Ravichandran Ashwin** has been named the captain of kings XI Punjab

Environment

February – 13

- As per **India State of Forest Report 2017** released by **Union government Minister Harsh Vardhan** on Feb 12 2018 tree and forest cover in **India** increased by **8021 sq km** (by 1%) in two years since 2015.
- Scientist have discovered three new species of eel namely: **Gymnothorax Pseudotile**, **Gymnothorax visakhaensis** and **Enchelycore propinqua**, in the northern Bay of Bengal Coast recently.

Books

February – 5

- ‘**Exams Warriors**’ a book written by **PM. Modi** has been launched by **External affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj**

February – 10

- **Sachin Tendulkar** launches book on child health care titled ‘**Even when There is a Doctor**’

February – 11

- Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** released a **book** on best **interviews of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.**

Economy

February – 22

- Allocations for the Ministry of Planning, which is embodied by the NITI Aayog, have increased by more than 20% over last year i.e. to Rs 339.65 crore in 2018-19 from Rs 279.79 crore in 2017-18.
- According to a report by UNICEF, India ranks 12th among 52 low-middle income countries having highest infant mortality rates with over six lakh children dying within the first month of their birth in 2016.
- Babies born in Japan, Iceland and Singapore have the best chance of survival, while newborns in Pakistan, the Central African Republic and Afghanistan face the worst odds with Japan being ranked first and Pakistan being ranked last.

Business

February – 3

- Inland Waterways Authority of India (**IWAI**) signed a project agreement with the **World Bank**. This project will enable commercial navigation of vessels.
- Cochin Shipyard Limited (**CSL**) and Joint Stock Company United Shipbuilding Corporation (**USC**) have signed a **MOU** to collaborate and engage in **design and development of Inland and coastal waterways**.
- The Central Government has nominated **Prasanna Kumar Mohanty** and **Dilip S. Shanghvi** as directors to the **Central Board of the RBI**

February – 4

- Union, Minister for Finance and corporate affairs ArunJaitely launched **Crisid Ex**, India's first sentiment index for micro and small enterprise (MSE's)

February – 7

- Assam State Government and cab aggregator Ola entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to pilot an app-based river taxi service in Guwahati
- Nepalese tea has finally received its own brand logo or trademark in the international market after 154-year long cultivation.
- **Brand Logo/Trademark of Nepali Tea:**
The logo has been developed and registered by National Tea and Coffee Development Board under Nepal's Ministry of Agricultural Development.
- The trademark has an image of mountains with "Nepal Tea: Quality from the Himalayas" written below it. It will be formally unveiled during the 3rd International Tea Festival in Nepal in March 2018.

February – 8

- On February 6, 2018, Maharashtra State cabinet approved **Maharashtra FinTech Policy 2018** and thereby became the **first State in India to adopt a comprehensive fintech**(Financial Technology) policy for fostering an environment for fintech startups.
- **Assam** State Government would soon set up **‘Invest Assam’** a new dedicated agency to look into all aspects of business and investment in the state. This decision was taken post conclusion of the two-day **‘Global Investors Summit- Advantage Assam’**.
- On 7th February 2018, Google India and Tata Trusts extended their Internet Saathiprogramme to 4,000 villages in six districts of Tamil Nadu.
 - **‘Internet Saathi’ programme in villages of Tamil Nadu:** Google India and Tamil Nadu government also announced that, they have planned to provide Google Cloud credits and access through its affiliate for eligible startups coming under the Tamil Nadu government’s startup initiative.

February – 11

- **OVL** partners acquire **10% stake** in **Abu Dhabi oilfield**. This is **the first time that Indian oil companies** have taken part in **Abu Dhabi oil** and gas concession.
- India Post Payments Bank (**IPPB**) enables **digital payments** in **post offices** by **April 2018**.

February – 15

- Punjab National Bank (**PNB**) said it had detected some **“fraudulent and Unauthorised”** transaction in **Mumbai branch**.
- **Equitas small Finance Bank** has interactive **digital savings account**.

February – 16

- State-run Punjab National Bank (**PNB**) said it had detected some “**fraudulent and unauthorised**” transactions worth about **\$1.77 billion** (about Rs 11, 300 crore) at one of its branches in Mumbai.
 - The bank said the transactions were for the benefit of a few select account holders with their apparent connivance.
 - PNB, the country’s second-biggest state-run lender and fourth-biggest overall by assets, did not name the people involved.
- **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has introduced ‘**selfeSavings**’, an interactive digital savings account.
 - This account can be opened with the web-based interactive video form by using Aadhaar number, PAN and other basic details.
 - The new selfe Savings account has no minimum balance requirement.
 - It pays an interest rate of 6 per cent per annum for balance below 10 lakh and 6.5 per cent for 10 lakh and above.
- **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has bagged an order worth **Rs 560 crore** from NTPC for setting up a system for emission control. **BHEL** has secured the order for "supply and installation of the flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) system from NTPC for 2x490 MW National Capital Power Station at **Dadri in Uttar Pradesh**.

February – 17

- SBI launches global **NRI** centre in Kochi. It will be a one – stop centre for all Non – Resident Indian (**NRI**)
- Milk basket, India’s first and largest micro – delivery platform has been recognized as ‘**startup of the year**’ 2017

February – 18

- **India’s largest IT** services company **TCS** is recognized as **World’s best employer by the TOP Employer** Institute for the **third consecutive year**.

- **India** ranked as **78th position** on a globalization index brought out by **international logistics company DHL**.

February – 19

- **India's largest IT services company TCS** is recognised as **world's best employer** by the **Top Employer Institute** for the **third** consecutive year.
 - The Top Employer Institute, **Amsterdam-based global certification company** in employee conditions, selected TCS for its exceptional employee offerings from a pool of more than **1,300 companies in 113 countries**.
 - **TCS** picked up the latest **Top Employer** endorsement for **27 of its individual country teams** across **Europe, Asia Pacific, North America, Latin America and the Middle East**.

February – 23

- A life-like avatar called **Cora** is being put through her paces by **Royal Bank of Scotland**, helping customers with basic queries and giving its digital banking drive a more human face.
 - **RBS**, which recently axed a quarter of its branches and has announced thousands of job cuts in the past year alone as it reduces costs, will only deploy **Cora to Nat West customers if the bank's** female avatar passes her probation period.
- Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (**EPFO**) has reduced interest rate on deposits to 8.55% for 2017-18 following a general decline in interest rates.
 - The decision was taken by EPFO's central board of trustees at its 220th board meeting, labour Minister **Santosh Kumar Gangwar** said.
 - EPFO had announced an interest rate of 8.65% for 2016-17 and 8.8% in 2015-16.
- **Google** combined its two payment services, Google Wallet and Android Pay, into a new app called Google Pay. The platform includes features like the ability to pay at checkout counters with a smart phone or pay for public

February – 24

- The Government of **India** and **Asian Development Bank** signed a **\$84 million loan** for improvement and expansion of **water supply in Bhagalpur** and Gaya towns in **Bihar**.
- **An Indo – German MOU** has been signed for an “**Implementation Agreement** in sustainable **urban development and Smart cities in India**”.
- **RBI** has launched “**Ombudsman Scheme**” for non – banking financial companies (**NBFC**) for redressal of complaints against them.
- On a rapid expansion mode mobile **fintech major paytm** has launched **two more firm** with an aim to enter the insurance **sector in the country**.

February – 25

- Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) signed MOU with Andhra Pradesh to invest Rs.3730 crore in the state. MOU for establishment of small solar PV bared power projects.
- In a bid to protect domestic producers, India has imposed anti-dumping duty on import of ceramic tableware and kitchenware from China.
- Tamil Nadu state government announced an agreement with Microsoft to improve the integration of technology in teaching and learning across the state.

February – 26

- The government-run **Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL)** has signed **MoUs with Andhra Pradesh government** to invest Rs 3,730 crore in the state.
 - The MoUs, spanning across e-mobility, energy efficiency and renewable energy and aimed to create 15,000 jobs, were signed at CII Partnership Summit.
 - Through the MoUs, EESL, a joint venture of PSUs under the Union Power Ministry, hopes to save Rs 3,185 crore.
- The e-way bill, to be generated under the GST for all inter-state movement of goods valued at over Rs 50,000, will become mandatory from April 1.

- The recommendation of the Group of Ministers on Information Technology would be considered by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council during its March 10 meeting.
- However, the implementation date for intra-state movement of goods is not yet decided and it would be implemented in a phase-wise manner.
- **Digital payments startup Paytm** has launched two insurance companies, **Paytm Life Insurance and Paytm General Insurance**.
 - Paytm Founder **Vijay Shekhar Sharma**, CFO **Madhur Deora**, and **Shankar Prasad Nath** are the three signatory **stakeholders** in both the companies.

February – 28

- **Internet giant Google** has tied up with State Bank of India (SBI) for its mobile payments app **Tez**.
- Users for prepaid payment Instruments (PPI) such as **mobile wallets** will have to complete **the KYC requirements by Feb 28** as the **RBI** has refused to extend the **deadline any further**.

Important Day

February – 5

- **World Cancer Day** – Feb 4
Theme: We can I can

February – 7

- **International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation** – 6 February

February – 12

- **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** was celebrated all over the world on 11th February.

February – 21

- World day of social justice : 20 Feb
- The theme of World Day of Social Justice 2018 is “Workers on the Move: the Quest for Social Justice.”

February – 22

- World Day of Social Justice: 20 February
- Social Equality Justice day is observed every year on 20th February. It is a day recognizing the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment. The theme of World Day of Social Justice 2018 is “Workers on the Move: the Quest for Social Justice.”

February – 22

- On 28th February ‘National Science Day’ was celebrated all over India with theme “Science and Technology for a sustainable future”.

Science and technology

February – 1

- **Indian Navy** Chief Admiral **Sunil Lanba**’s wife **Reena Lanba** launched the **third scorpene class submarine karanj** at **Mazagon Dock Ship** builders Limited in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**
- The **Government** has launched **GeM 3.0** the **Government e-Market place** portal which will provide standardized and improved catalogue management, powerful search engine, **demand aggregation, user rating and analytics.**

February – 4

- China successfully launched **Zhangheng – 1** its first Seismo electromagnetic satellite to study seismic precursors.

February – 5

- Japan successfully launched a **mini – rocket** that sent a microsatellite into orbit the No.5 vehicle of the **SS – 520** series took off from the **Uchinoura Spacecentre** in **Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan**

February – 7

- On February 6, 2018, India successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed **Agni-I ballistic** missile from a test range off the Odisha coast. The test involved 18th version of Agni-I and was conducted by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) of Indian Army with logistic support from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for a range of about 900 km. The test was conducted from launch pad-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Abdul Kalam Island in Balasore, Odisha and achieved all parameters within the stipulated time period.

February – 8

- **Empzilla**, a chat based job search mobile app, first of its kind in India has been launched.
 - Using **Empzilla, employers and job searchers can easily carry out a conversation.** This also spares the Human Resource department's strenuous job of going through so many mails.
 - Empzilla has a geo location feature. This lets the users find out the exact distance between the hiring venue and the candidate's location.
- On 6th February 2018, Madhya Pradesh government introduced '**Pollution Metre**', a mobile application to spread awareness against pollution in the western part of Madhya Pradesh. Using the '**Pollution Metre**' app, users can check the status of air, water and noise pollution in their areas.

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has developed the first flight of Hawk-i with indigenous Real Time Operating System (RTOS).
 - **Hawk-i:** Hawk-i is the first indigenous RTOS developed from scratch in India. It has been certified by Center for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC).

- On 7th February 2018, **India successfully test-fired Prithvi-II**, an indigenously developed nuclear capable missile from a test range in Odisha. Prithvi II missile. **Prithvi-11 is a surface-to-surface missile.** It can strike through a range of 350 km. Its trial was carried out from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur.

- On 6th February 2018, **SpaceX launched its 'Falcon Heavy'** rocket towards Mars from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.
 - **Falcon Heavy: Falcon Heavy is said to be the world's most powerful rocket. It carried a Tesla roadster as a mock payload.**

February – 12

- Scientist has successfully accomplished growing of **human eggs** in a **laboratory** environment for the **first time**. Scientist has achieved successful growth of human egg from the earliest stage in ovarian tissue till maturity for the first time in laboratory. The result of this process were published in the Journal molecular Human Reproduction

- **Indian Railways** has launched the “**Voluntary Safety Reporting website**” for its employees to anonymously report internal safety issue and hazards.

February – 13

- Dubai's Road and Transport Authority launched the **first tests of the world's first autonomous pods**. They have launched these **autonomous pods in collaboration with Next Future Transportation**.

February – 20

- India successfully test-fired Agni II medium-range nuclear-capable missile from APJ Abdul Kalam island off the Odisha coast. The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) fired **Agni-II from a mobile launcher at launch complex 4 of the Integrated Test Range. Agni-II, which has a length of 20 metres, weighs 17 tonnes and can carry a payload of 1000 kgs over a distance of 2000 kms.** It is a part of the Agni series of missiles developed by the DRDO.

February – 23

- India successfully conducted a night trial of its indigenously developed nuclear capable
 - **Prithvi-II missile** with a strike range of 350 km, from a test range in Odisha. The surface-to-surface missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha. The perfect test launch came after the successful trial of the Agni-5 missile.

Obituary

February – 1

- **World's oldest man Francisco NunezOlivera** dead at 113.

February – 7

- Kathakali maestro Madavoor Vasudevan Nair collapsed on stage and died while performing at Agasthyacodu Mahadeva Temple, Kerala. He was 89. A recipient of several awards, including Padma Bhushan, he was the follower of the Kaplingattu School, the particular style of south Kerala.

February – 8

- **SudhaKarmarkar**, Pioneer of Children's Theatre, passed away due to age related ailments, in Mumbai.

- **Actor John Mahoney** passed away after brief illness in Chicago.

February – 12

- **Pakistani Activist AsmaJhangir** passes away
- **Golden Globe award winner musician JohananJohannson** passes away

February – 16

- **Former Union minister and veteran TDP leader Bolla Bulli ramaiah** died of old age-related illness. He was **92**.
 - Bulli ramaiah, who was known as a genial person, joined the **TDP** during its inception and became an **MP in 1984**.
 - He was elected to the **Lok Sabha** from the **Eluru** constituency in **1991, 1996** and **1999** and served as the Union minister of state for commerce during **1996-98** in the United Front government.

February – 19

- The **long-serving Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers**, who led the **Netherlands from 1982 to 1994**, has died at the age of **78**.
 - Mr Lubbers had the **longest tenure of any prime minister** in the country's history, and guided the Netherlands through **economic turmoil to prosperity**.

February – 20

- Well-known Telugu cinema comedian GunduHanumantha Rao passed away on February 19 in Hyderabad. He was 61.

February – 22

- **BK Goyal**, renowned cardiologist and Honorary Dean of the Bombay Hospital, passed away in Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital. He was 82.

- He was awarded the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan by the Government of India. The Jaipur-born doctor authored a book, Heart Talk, besides having more than 50 publications in various Indian and globally recognized journals. In 2012, the All India Medical Council proposed his name for the post of President of India.

February – 23

- **Veteran** author and civic rights activist **K Panoor** has passed away owing to age related illness.

February – 24

- **Violinist MS Anantharaman** dies aged 94
- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** ambassador **Kunwar Bai** passes away.

February – 26

- **Veteran Bollywood actress and Padma Shri awardee Sridevi**, who had an illustrious career spanning over four decades, passed away. She was **54**.

February – 27

- **TSR Subramanian, former Cabinet Secretary of the Union government** has passed away due to prolonged illness.

February – 28

- On 28th Feb Kanchi **acharya Sri Jayendra Saraswathi** died after suffering from breathing problems at a hospital in Kanchipuram, **Tamil Nadu**.